

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing information, comprising:
2 modeling a first plurality of information entities, including a first entity
3 and a second entity, using a first logical model;
4 converting said logical model into a first derived subject model;
5 converting said first derived subject model into a first physical model; and
6 mapping at least one relationship between said first entity and said second
7 entity of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, said first logical model comprising at least
2 one of a central concept entity, a static attribute entity, a dynamic attribute entity, an
3 activities/events entity.

- 1 3. The method of claim 1, said first derived subject model comprising
2 at least one of a core component, and at least one of a plurality of customized group
3 components.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 analyzing said first plurality of information entities using applications
3 based upon input of said first logical model.

- 1 5. The method of claim 4, said applications comprising at least one of
2 statistics, a report generator, an On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) package, and a
3 data mining application.

- 1 6. The method of claim 1, mapping at least one relationship between
2 said first entity and said second entity of said first plurality of information entities based
3 upon said first physical model comprises:
4 creating metadata information for said models; and
5 saving said metadata information in a repository.

- 1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 modeling a second plurality of information entities, including a first entity
3 and a second entity, using a second logical model;
4 converting said second logical model into a second derived subject model;

5 converting said second derived subject model into a second physical
 6 model; and
 7 mapping at least one relationship among said first entity and said second
 8 entity of said second plurality of information entities based upon said second physical
 9 model.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
 2 analyzing said first plurality of information entities and said second
 3 plurality of information entities using applications based upon input from said first logical
 4 model and said second logical model, said applications deriving new relationships
 5 between said first plurality of information entities and said second plurality of
 6 information entities.

1 9. A system for managing data, comprising:
 2 a computer;
 3 an information store, operable to contain said data;
 4 a database interface software process that maintains said data in said
 5 information store;
 6 a metadata repository;
 7 a query/command generator software process that provides access to said
 8 data;
 9 a repository interface software process that provides access to said
 10 metadata;
 11 a scheduler software process; and
 12 a user interface software process that controls input to and output from
 13 said metadata repository, said database interface software process, said query/command
 14 generator software process, and said scheduler.

1 10. A computer program product for managing information, said
 2 computer program product comprising:
 3 code that models a first plurality of information entities, including a first
 4 entity and a second entity, using a first logical model;
 5 code that converts said logical model into a first derived subject model;
 6 code that converts said first derived subject model into a first physical
 7 model;

8 code that maps at least one relationship among said first entity and said
9 second entity of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical
10 model; and
11 a computer readable storage medium for holding the codes.

1 11. The computer program product of claim 10, said first logical model
2 comprising at least one of a central concept entity, a static attribute entity, a dynamic
3 attribute entity, an activities/events entity.

1 12. The computer program product of claim 10, said first derived
2 subject model comprising at least one of a core component, and at least one of a plurality
3 of customized group components.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising:
2 code that analyzes said first plurality of information entities using
3 applications based upon input of said first logical model.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, said applications
2 comprising at least one of statistics, a report generator, an On Line Analytical Processing
3 (OLAP) package, and a data mining application.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein said code that
2 maps at least one relationship between said first entity and said second entity of said first
3 plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model comprises:
4 code that creates metadata information for said models; and
5 code that saves said metadata information in a repository.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 10, further comprising:
2 code that models a second plurality of information entities, including a
3 first entity and a second entity, using a second logical model;
4 code that converts said second logical model into a second derived subject
5 model;
6 code that converts said second derived subject model into a second
7 physical model; and

8 code that maps at least one relationship among said first entity and said
9 second entity of said second plurality of information entities based upon said second
10 physical model.

1 17. The computer program of claim 16, further comprising:
2 code that analyzes said first plurality of information entities and said
3 second plurality of information entities using applications based upon input from said first
4 logical model and said second logical model, said applications deriving new relationships
5 between said first plurality of information entities and said second plurality of
6 information entities.

1 18. A computer memory, having stored thereon data, said data
2 comprising:
3 a first central concept entity;
4 a first static attribute entity;
5 a first dynamic attribute entity; and
6 a first activities/events entity, wherein said first central concept entity, said
7 first static attribute entity, said first dynamic attribute entity, and said first
8 activities/events entity are related by a first subject model.

1 19. The computer memory of claim 18, said data further comprising:
2 a second central concept entity;
3 a second static attribute entity;
4 a second dynamic attribute entity; and
5 a second activities/events entity, wherein said second central concept
6 entity, said second static attribute entity, said second dynamic attribute entity, and said
7 second activities/events entity are related by a second subject model.

1 20. An apparatus for managing information, comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a memory;
4 wherein said processor is operative to model a first plurality of information
5 entities, including a first entity and a second entity, using a first logical model; said
6 processor is further operative to convert said logical model into a first derived subject
7 model; and to convert said first derived subject model into a first physical model; and

8 thereupon to map at least one relationship between said first entity and said second entity
 9 of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model; wherein
 10 said first entity and said second entity are stored in said memory.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 20, said first logical model comprising at
 2 least one of a central concept entity, a static attribute entity, a dynamic attribute entity, an
 3 activities/events entity.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 20, said first derived subject model
 2 comprising at least one of a core component, and at least one of a plurality of customized
 3 group components.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said processor is further
 2 operative to analyze said first plurality of information entities using applications based
 3 upon input of said first logical model.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23, said applications comprising at least
 2 one of statistics, a report generator, an On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) package,
 3 and a data mining application.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said processor is operative to:
 2 create metadata information for said models; and
 3 save said metadata information in a repository when said processor maps
 4 at least one relationship between said first entity and said second entity of said first
 5 plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said processor is further
 2 operative to:
 3 model a second plurality of information entities, including a first entity and
 4 a second entity, using a second logical model;
 5 convert said second logical model into a second derived subject model;
 6 convert said second derived subject model into a second physical model;
 7 and
 8 map at least one relationship among said first entity and said second entity
 9 of said second plurality of information entities based upon said second physical model.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said processor is further
2 operative to:
3 analyze said first plurality of information entities and said second plurality
4 of information entities using applications based upon input from said first logical model
5 and said second logical model, said applications deriving new relationships between said
6 first plurality of information entities and said second plurality of information entities.

1 28. A client apparatus, comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a memory; and
4 a display; wherein said processor causes said display to:
5 display a first logical model, said first logical model modeling a first
6 plurality of information entities, including a first entity and a second entity;
7 display a first derived subject model, said first derived subject model
8 obtained from said logical model;
9 display a first physical model, said first physical model obtained from said
10 first derived subject model; wherein at least one relationship between said first entity and
11 said second entity of said first plurality of information entities exists based upon said first
12 physical model.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, said first logical model comprising at
2 least one of a central concept entity, a static attribute entity, a dynamic attribute entity, an
3 activities/events entity.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 28, said first derived subject model
2 comprising at least one of a core component, and at least one of a plurality of customized
3 group components.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said processor is further
2 operative to display a result obtained from analyzing said first plurality of information
3 entities using applications based upon input of said first logical model.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 31, said applications comprising at least
2 one of statistics, a report generator, an On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) package,
3 and a data mining application.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said processor is operative to:
2 display a result obtained from creating metadata information for said
3 models; and saving said metadata information in a repository when said processor maps
4 at least one relationship between said first entity and said second entity of said first
5 plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said processor is further
2 operative to:
3 display a second logical model, said second logical model modeling a
4 second plurality of information entities, including a first entity and a second entity;
5 display a second derived subject model obtained from said second logical
6 model;
7 display a second physical model obtained from said second derived subject
8 model;
9 wherein at least one relationship among said first entity and said second
10 entity of said second plurality of information entities exists based upon said second
11 physical model.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said processor is further
2 operative to:
3 display a result obtained from analyzing said first plurality of information
4 entities and said second plurality of information entities using applications based upon
5 input from said first logical model and said second logical model, said applications
6 deriving new relationships between said first plurality of information entities and said
7 second plurality of information entities.

1 36. A method for managing information, comprising:
2 modeling a first plurality of information entities, including a first entity
3 and a second entity, using a first logical model;
4 converting said logical model into a first physical model; and
5 mapping at least one relationship between said first entity and said second
6 entity of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model.

1 37. The method of claim 36, said first logical model comprising at least
2 one of a central concept entity, a static attribute entity, a dynamic attribute entity, an
3 activities/events entity.

1 38. The method of claim 36, further comprising:
2 analyzing said first plurality of information entities using applications
3 based upon input of said first logical model.

1 39. The method of claim 38, said applications comprising at least one
2 of statistics, a report generator, an On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) package, and a
3 data mining application.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein mapping at least one
2 relationship between said first entity and said second entity of said first plurality of
3 information entities based upon said first physical model comprises:
4 creating metadata information for said models; and
5 saving said metadata information in a repository when said processor.

1 41. The method of claim 36, further comprising:
2 modeling a second plurality of information entities, including a first entity
3 and a second entity, using a second logical model;
4 converting said second logical model into a second physical model; and
5 mapping at least one relationship among said first entity and said second
6 entity of said second plurality of information entities based upon said second physical
7 model.

1 42. The method of claim 41, further comprising:
2 analyzing said first plurality of information entities and said second
3 plurality of information entities using applications based upon input from said first logical
4 model and said second logical model, said applications deriving new relationships
5 between said first plurality of information entities and said second plurality of
6 information entities.

1 43. A computer program product for managing information, said
2 computer program product comprising:

3 code that models a first plurality of information entities, including a first
 4 entity and a second entity, using a first logical model;
 5 code that converts said logical model into a first physical model;
 6 code that maps at least one relationship among said first entity and said
 7 second entity of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical
 8 model; and
 9 a computer readable storage medium for holding the codes.

1 44. An apparatus for managing information, comprising:
 2 a processor; and
 3 a memory;
 4 wherein said processor is operative to model a first plurality of information
 5 entities, including a first entity and a second entity, using a first logical model; said
 6 processor is further operative to convert said logical model into a first physical model;
 7 and thereupon to map at least one relationship between said first entity and said second
 8 entity of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model;
 9 wherein said first entity and said second entity are stored in said memory.

1 45. A client apparatus, comprising:
 2 a processor;
 3 a memory; and
 4 a display; wherein said processor causes said display to:
 5 display a first logical model, said first logical model modeling a first
 6 plurality of information entities, including a first entity and a second entity;
 7 display a first physical model, said first physical model obtained from said
 8 first logical model; wherein at least one relationship between said first entity and said
 9 second entity of said first plurality of information entities exists based upon said first
 10 physical model.

1 46. A method for analyzing information, comprising:
 2 retrieving metadata information from a repository;
 3 creating at least one of a plurality of commands based upon said metadata
 4 information;
 5 sending said at least one of a plurality of commands to a database;

6 providing information received from said database responsive to said at
 7 least one of a plurality of commands to at least one of a plurality of applications; and
 8 creating at least one of a plurality of reports from a result of said at least
 9 one of a plurality of applications.

1 47. The method of claim 46, wherein said metadata information
 2 comprises at least one of a model, a mapping, a derived attributes definition, and a
 3 profiling definition.

1 48. A computer program product for analyzing information,
 2 comprising:
 3 code that retrieves metadata information from a repository;
 4 code that creates at least one of a plurality of commands based upon said
 5 metadata information;
 6 code sends said at least one of a plurality of commands to a database;
 7 code that provides information received from said database responsive to
 8 said at least one of a plurality of commands to at least one of a plurality of applications;
 9 code that creates at least one of a plurality of reports from a result of said
 10 at least one of a plurality of applications; and
 11 a computer readable storage medium for storing the codes.

1 49. An apparatus for analyzing information, comprising:
 2 a processor; and
 3 a memory;
 4 wherein said processor is operative to retrieve metadata information from a
 5 repository; create at least one of a plurality of commands based upon said metadata
 6 information; send said at least one of a plurality of commands to a database; provide
 7 information received from said database responsive to said at least one of a plurality of
 8 commands to at least one of a plurality of applications; and create at least one of a
 9 plurality of reports from a result of said at least one of a plurality of applications.

1 50. A client apparatus, comprising:
 2 a processor;
 3 a memory; and

4 a display; wherein said processor causes said display to display at least one
5 of a plurality of reports from a result of at least one of a plurality of applications acting
6 upon information received from a database responsive to at least one of a plurality of
7 commands created based upon a metadata information retrieved from a repository.